**Closure of Four CPSUs in West Bengal**

837. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY :Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the new-item captioned Kendra ne jhoot bola... appeared in Jansatta (Calcutta edition), dated 14th July, 2000 regarding closure of four CPSUs in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the expert Committee had recommended to explore the possibilities of revival of Weighbird, MAMC and RIC through various options, are reported;

(c) if so, the details of the efforts made by Government to explore the possibilities; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Govt. has taken a decision to take action for closure of six unviable PSEs including MAMC, RIC and Weighbird after considering the recommendations of the Export Group about the unviability of the companies as PSUs and taken into account that the earlier efforts for revival through other options including privatisation/joint venture formation have not been successful. These PSEs were facing the possibility of winding up consequent to the preliminary/final view of BIFR/Expert Agency. However, in order to mitigate the hardship of employees in these PSEs, Govt. have decided to introduce Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) and offer VRS benefits which would be substantially higher than the compensation available under the ID Act in the event of winding up.

**Popularity of DD regional Channels**

838. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan Regional Channels have succeeded in curtailing the popularity of private channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) it not, the steps Government intend to take to bring back the viewers to the Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Doordarshan does not aim to curtail the popularity of private channels but to improve viewership of its channels:

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Doordarshan continuounsly endeavours to improve its programmes and quality of coverage. Some rescent intitiatives taken in this regard including modification of fixed point chart (FPC) to include a wise variety of programmes, improvement in quality and content of regional programmes, improvement in quality of transmission through digitalization in the satellite segments of the channels and increase in during transmission time of regional satellite channels.

**Crimes and Suicides being encouraged by Electronic Media**

†839. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the incidents in which children have committed crimes and suicides being encouraged by media especially electronic media;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued new directives for the programmes being telecast; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Representations have been received occasionally alleging certain TV programmes as cause of commission of crimes by children. However, so far, no definite correlation has been established between the two in such cases.

(b) and (c) Government has not issued any new directive to the media as they are expected to function within the prescribed statutory or self regulatory codes and practices, wherever applicable.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.